

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on April 15, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

No claims are amended, canceled, or added; as a result, claims 19-73 are now pending in this application.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 19-73 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,117,696.

Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer for claims 19-34 when all of the claims are indicated as allowable.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 35-73.

Claims 35-73 recite elements that are different from the elements of claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,117,696. For example, claim 35 recites:

“receiving a read signal;
coupling a pass circuit between an internal node and a pin of an integrated circuit;
resetting the pass circuit with a reset circuit based on a first state of the read signal; and
passing the voltage from the internal node to the pin based on a second state of the read signal.”

As another example, claim 45 recites:

“receiving a read signal;
coupling a pass circuit between an internal node and a pin of an integrated circuit;
applying an applied voltage to the pin;
resetting the pass circuit with a reset circuit based on a first state of the read signal; and
passing the applied voltage from the pin to the internal node based a second state of the read signal.”

The other claims among claims 35-73 also recite elements similar to the elements of claim 35 and claim 45.

Claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,117,696 recites:

“fabricating the integrated circuit;
selecting a voltage level for an internal node;
applying the selected voltage level to a pin of the integrated circuit;
passing the voltage from the pin of the integrated circuit to the internal node of the integrated circuit; and

adjusting the selected voltage level applied to the pin until the integrated circuit operates acceptably.”

The other claims among claims 1-22 of the U.S. Patent No. 6,117,696 recite elements similar to the elements of claim 8.

Based on the differences presented above, the elements of claims 35-73 are different from the elements of claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,117,696. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 35-73 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 35-73 be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative (612-373-6969) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

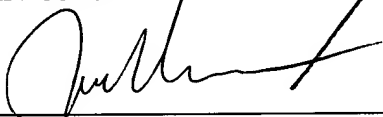
Respectfully submitted,

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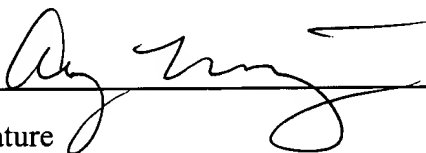
Date 7-15-03

By 

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 15th day of July, 2003.

Amy Moriarty
Name


Signature